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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	SRPP-00	EUR-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/017W	
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O 021013Z AUG 95
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4586
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 008074

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C AND EUR/UBI

E.O. 12356: DECL: 8/1/05
TAGS: PREL, BE, BY, TZ, FR
SUBJECT: BELGIAN RESPONSE TO TANZANIAN IDEA

REF: A) STATE 181156 B) DAR ES SALAAM 4394

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. POLOFF AND BELGIAN MFA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REVIEWED AT LENGTH POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.

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[REDACTED] SAID HE WOULD PREFACE HIS RESPONSE BY NOTING THAT

NEITHER THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT, THE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD APPROACHED THE GOB WITH THE IDEA OF AN ALL-AFRICAN, TANZANIAN-LED FORCE TO INTERVENE IN BURUNDI IN CASE OF CRISIS.

3. [] SAID HE WOULD NOT REPEAT THE GOB'S OFT-STATED OBJECTIONS TO A MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN BURUNDI. THE CONCEPT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION PER SE WAS NOT A PRINCIPLE TO WHICH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS REFLEXIVELY OPPOSED. IF THAT WERE THE CASE, BELGIUM WOULD NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PKO OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA, FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, AND RWANDA. GOB STILL HAS TROOPS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE NOTION OF PEACEKEEPING REMAINS STRONG.

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4. BURUNDI, HOWEVER, POSES CERTAIN PROBLEMS ASIDE FROM BELGIAN HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS. THE BURUNDIAN LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND MILITARY STRUCTURES ARE STILL FUNCTIONING. INTERVENTION IN BURUNDI, WHETHER DONE BY A MULTINATIONAL FORCE OR AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE, WOULD REQUIRE BYPASSING THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. IT WOULD LIKELY ENTAIL CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE BURUNDIAN MILITARY. THIS SCENARIO HAD NO SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. THE GOB WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE WITH EITHER TROOPS OR PERSONNEL.

5. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMY OF BURUNDI REQUEST AN INTERVENTION AND SHOULD OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES DECIDE TO ASSEMBLE AN AFRICAN FORCE, BELGIUM WOULD CONSIDER WHAT LOGISTICAL SUPPORT - IF ANY - IT COULD

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PROVIDE. [] SAID THAT IN SUCH A CASE, IT WAS POSSIBLE THE GOB MIGHT AGAIN ADOPT A NATIONAL CONTINGENT - AS HAD BEEN DONE WITH THE MALAWI CONTINGENT IN UNAMIR. THE PROSPECT OF ASSISTING AN AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE, HOWEVER, HAD NEVER BEEN A FACTOR IN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS.

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